

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.All business or news letters and telegraphic
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AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street—
Diamonds, Matinee at 12.ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street—Richelieu;
or, The Conspiracy. Matinee at 12—Six o'clock.GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third street and Eighth
avenue—The Bellini. Matinee at 12—Six o'clock.BOOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third street, corner Sixth
avenue—The Bellini; or, The Conspiracy. Matinee at 12.BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—Satan, the Swain
Macmillan and the Toodles, &c.WOOD'S GYMNASIUM, Broadway, corner Thirtieth street—
Circus—Circus. Afternoon and Evening.OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway, between Houston and
Bleecker streets—Red Pockbook. Matinee at 2.THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway—New York Ex-
pressman, &c. Matinee at 2.WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirtieth
street—Lion; or, The Man at the Wheel. Matinee.BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Montague street—
Henry Derry.WHITE'S ATHLETIC, 128 Broadway—Nero Min-
strelsy, &c.BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third street, corner
Sixth and Seventh—Nero Minstrelsy, &c. Matinee.ST. JAMES THEATRE, corner of 23d street and Broad
way—San Francisco Minstrelsy in Paris, &c. Matinee.720 BROADWAY, ENGLISH MINSTRELS—Grand
Entertainment. Matinee at 2.JAMES ROBINSON'S CHAMPION CIRCUS, corner of
Madison avenue and Forty-fifth street.NEWARK INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, Washington
street, corner of Court, Newark, N. J.AMERICAN INSTITUTE FAIR, Third street, between 63d
and 64th streets.CENTRAL PARK GARDEN—Grand Instrumental
Concert.PAVILION, No. 628 Broadway, near Fourth street—
Grand Concert.NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 613 Broadway—
Science and Art.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Saturday, Sept. 14, 1872.

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THE ALABAMA CLAIMS ARBITRATORS returned to Geneva yesterday from a festive tour of visit made to the citizens of Bern, Thun and Interlachen. They had a very agreeable time during their absence, and are again at the centre of the Alabama claims arbitration, "booming all over with smiles" and brimful of health, hope and the spirit of fraternity and peace. The arbitrators reassure the nations, after a banquet, as will be seen, that the most happy results will ensue from their court labors, not only to England and the United States, but to civilization in general. What are a few millions of dollars in comparison with the prospect?

ERIE IN A "CORNER."—The vicissitudes of speculation are besetting. Usually the dangers of Wall street consist in buying. But it has been often demonstrated that there is just as much danger of loss in selling. Commodore Vanderbilt, familiarizing a remark of the elder Rothschild, gave his advice once to a victim:—"Never sell what you haven't got, Sonny." Some parties, ignorant of, or reckless of, this advice, have been selling Erie for a decline—that is, they intended reversing the usual method of speculation by selling first and buying afterward. But too many of them did the same thing, and there wasn't enough stock to go around. The consequence is a "corner" in Erie, which prevailed up to the time the Board adjourned yesterday.

MARSHAL BAZAINE'S TRIAL before the French court martial has, it is said, brought to light circumstances of the most serious import in connection with the conduct of the war between France and Prussia. Bazaine is charged with having surrendered the garrison of Metz unnecessarily. He stands in great danger of losing his life by military execution if convicted.

CITIZENS OF SHANGHAI, China, have taken six millions of francs of the new French loan. Sympathy from the imperial East for the cause of democracy in Europe.

The Coal Question in England—The Causes of Commercial Supremacy—Great Britain and the United States in the Future.

All the news of late from England with regard to the supply, production and price of coal shows that the coal question in all its bearings on the present and future is becoming deeply interesting. There is no subject which engages the serious attention of the statesmen and political economists of England at the present time more important than that of the coal supply of the United Kingdom. The consumption has been so enormous of late years and the yearly ratio of increase in consumption has been so great that it has become evident the time is approaching when the limited area of the coal fields must be exhausted. This gloomy prospect, with its probable distressing consequences, was brought to the notice of the British public in an able speech delivered by Mr. Gladstone a few years ago. Others have spoken and written on the subject, but the note of alarm sounded by this statesman awakened England from her slumber of fancied security and perpetual commercial supremacy. Parliament saw the necessity of investigating the question of coal supply in the British Isles and appointed commissioners for that purpose. Reports have been made by these Commissioners which show that this prime source of England's manufacturing and commercial greatness is in process of rapid exhaustion, and that within little over a century all the coal of the United Kingdom will be consumed. The report of the Commission has been severely criticised by scientific men and able writers, who argue that the coal of Great Britain will be exhausted in a much shorter period than that calculated by the Commissioners of Parliament.

The Commission reports that the probable quantity of coal in the ascertained coal fields of the United Kingdom is 90,207,000,000 tons. This estimate includes everything of the nature of coal that has a seam of more than twelve inches thick and to a depth of four thousand feet. One able writer, in analyzing this estimate, shows that the quantity capable of being extracted at a working depth is not over 61,000,000,000 tons—that is, at a depth above the limit of blood heat. Then it is calculated that 22,000,000,000 can only be extracted at a cost that at present prices would not pay. Thirty-nine thousand millions of tons, then, this English writer says, is all the coal of the existence of which, within the limits of available working means, there is any evidence. Some sanguine geologists are speculating upon a larger supply from possible undiscovered beds; but there are no facts to sustain such an assumption. The conclusion is, therefore, that 39,000,000,000 of available and 22,000,000,000 tons of less available coal, considering the amount already extracted, are largely in excess of the probable actual quantity. If the present rate of increase of consumption be continued the last ton of the available 39,000,000,000 tons would be extracted in seventy-three years. In the year 1869 there were taken from the mines 108,000,000 tons. The amount in 1871 was estimated at nearly 118,000,000 tons. The increase in the year 1869 was equal to that of the two preceding years. The annual increase, one year after another, is, at least, from three to four per cent, and at this rate the consumption would reach in twenty-five years fully 220,000,000 tons a year.

It must be remembered, too, that the best coal is generally mined at first. England, consequently, is not only rapidly exhausting the amount of supply, but must expend more and more upon an inferior quality as time advances. Then the additional cost of mining at greater depths are reached, and the inevitable increase of wages with the progress of the age and improving condition of the working classes, must in time seriously affect the manufacturing and commercial facilities and greatness of England. It is admitted that the coal fields of the United Kingdom are in area but four per cent of those already known in the world. The wonderful growth and present magnitude of English manufactures must be attributed chiefly to the coal fields of the British Isles, and, as a consequence also, England's vast commerce and wealth. Steam power, evolved by the valuable mineral, has given a production that all the labor of the teeming millions of the British Empire could not. As the supply of this material gives out in quantity and quality, and as the cost of extracting it increases, England's manufacturing and commercial supremacy will probably decline. England cannot import coal in such vast quantities as she will need it, and compete with the countries which have it in abundance and from which she must obtain it. Nor will the cheap labor upon which she has depended in a great measure for success continue to be available. The English working classes have reached the starvation point—the point of lowest wages and endurance—and with their political amelioration, which comes with the enlightened progress of the times, the laboring people aspire to a better condition, and will have it. Unless some other motive power than steam evolved by coal, and some other substance for furnaces and forges can be found, it will not be many years before manufacturing and commercial rivals will distance England in the race for supremacy.

What nation, then, has the resources and the fairest prospect of rivaling England in the future? What country is to inherit the empire of commerce? It requires little sagacity to see that this is to be the destiny of the United States. Taking coal as an important, or the most important, element of manufacturing and commercial development and greatness, the resources of this country cannot be overestimated. The area of the coal beds in Great Britain does not exceed a thousand square leagues, and all other known European beds together are less than that. We have at least twenty thousand square leagues of coal measures, and these are so located and distributed as to be in close proximity to our great water courses, to inexhaustible mines of iron and other ores, and run through most of the central tier of States from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Nor have we to go down thousands of feet at great cost to depths where the temperature is at blood heat and human life endangered to extract the coal. It is near the surface, generally, and can be mined at a small cost, comparatively. Throughout these coal regions, too, we have a limitless amount almost of the most fruitful soil, where provisions of all kinds can be raised and ob-

ained cheaply. Then our railroads traverse the coal fields in every direction. We have made and are making great progress in developing this mineral wealth, and in a short time shall exceed the production and consumption of England. In two decades—and twenty years is a brief period in the history of a nation—our forty millions of population will be augmented, probably, to nearly eighty millions. Mining will keep pace with other industries, and may, possibly, be accelerated faster with the increase and aggregation of population. With mining will come an increase of manufactures, both for our own wants and for external commerce. Then, with cheap and abundant coal and provisions, a denser population and the most convenient geographical position for trade both by the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, there is every reason to expect a transfer of manufacturing and commercial supremacy from England to the United States. The news of a continued rise in the price of coal in England, notwithstanding large importations from Belgium, we regard as one of the first indications of the important change about to take place in the destiny both of that country and this. Coal, more than anything else, has made England what she is, and as it is the great lever of modern progress the want of a sufficient supply must check her prosperity and divert the current of commerce.

Our Mexican Neighbors—Their Claims for Thirty Millions of Dollars—Insolent Action of Leon Guzman.

The public of the United States have been made aware from time to time, by very solemn announcements from Washington, that the face of a Claims Commission was being enacted on the Rio Grande border. In view of the unwillingness of the authorities to afford proper protection to our frontier citizens, by the employment of the military forces of the Republic against murderous savages and thieving rancheros, it was thought necessary to allay public discontent by the appearance of making an effort to secure peace on the frontier. The value set on the peace policy of Washington by the border marauders was clearly enough shown by the outrages committed almost within sight of the meeting place of the Claims Commissioners. But such slight and unimportant considerations as the murder of a few more Americans could not be expected to ruffle the self-complacency of our peace-at-any-price authorities. So, while the Mexicans drove off Texan cattle and shot down obstreperous owners, the representative of the Spread Eagle bowed politely to the Mexican Commissioner and assured him that such trifling indiscretions on the part of his hot-blooded compatriots should not be allowed to interfere with the sentiment of peace and friendship that had ever existed between the two sister republics. The Mexican naturally agreed that this was a fair and impartial, as well as a broad and philosophic, view of the case, and, improving the opportunity, suggested that, as we were inclined to be generous, the payment of thirty million dollars, more or less, on account of the robberies already inflicted on us would be a handsome way to wipe out the past. This unfortunate shot in the Treasury locker touched the representative of Washington to the quick and brought him up sick. He was quite willing to allow Mexicans to indulge in the exciting sport of cattle stealing, with an odd murder thrown in as a kind of spice; but to touch the money bags at Washington was to profane a place sacred to office-holders, and altogether a different question. The cool request for thirty millions of dollars, claimed on account of Indian incursions, for which we are expected to pay, was therefore agreed to be referred to an umpire; but for some unexplained reason this course was not immediately taken and the matter was shelved until a Mexican Commissioner was recalled and replaced by a certain haughty Hidalgo named Leon Guzman. This person evidently thought we had been let off too cheaply, and declined to allow the umpire to decide the question, insisting that the little matter should be settled by treaty. This proceeding on the part of Mr. Guzman practically put an end to the Commission, and so the farce ended—for the time.

President Grant, on the occasion of the presentation of Señor Morisco, the new Mexican Minister, took the opportunity to represent, of course in a mild way, that if the conduct of the fiery Guzman were tolerated the darling convention would come to naught. The President even ventured to express an opinion that such action on the part of the Mexican Commissioners was not calculated to increase our friendly feeling for the sister Republic. As a matter of course the Minister bowed, uttered the usual commonplaces and went home to enjoy a good laugh at the expense of the American government. These people know no law but the law of force, and do not at all comprehend the high Christian morality that obtains at Washington. The borderers see that there are fat kids in Texas to be had for taking, and no great fear of interruption or resistance. Such temptation is naturally too strong for a people whose ideas of property are somewhat rude. The central government has neither the power nor the will to stop the freebooting, and our authorities are too virtuous to violate neighboring territory in pursuit even of murderers and robbers. How long this policy is likely to continue is altogether a question of patience, and we begin to believe that there is more of the saint in the elder Texan character than we ever gave the inhabitants of the Lone Star State credit for. But the American public are getting tired of the insolence and violence of our neighbors, and the action of the Guzmans and the Cortinas is rapidly creating a sentiment in this country that even the saintly, peaceable men at Washington will have to hearken to. Phil Sheridan and a few thousand of Uncle Sam's boys would settle all the disturbing border questions better and quicker than any number of commissioners, and to this kind of logic we shall be compelled to appeal at last.

THE SEASON AT BRIGHTON.—On another page of to-day's HERALD we publish a gossiping letter about Brighton, the famous English watering place, its sights and its attractions, the people who visit there and what they go for. During the summer season it is the Mecca towards which all good Londoners direct their eyes. With its bathing facilities, its great aquarium and big pier, and with the seasons of the British Scientific Association thrown in by way of variety, the season this year has been brilliant, successful and exciting.

The Mountain Meadows Massacre—A Terrible Revelation.

Fifteen years ago a very wealthy train of emigrants left Arkansas for California, there to seek new homes. From all reports it was considered the most comfortably outfitted company of emigrants that ever crossed the Plains. In addition to the usual wagons, freighted with provisions, clothing and the portable valuables of their former homes, together with the implements of agriculture and mechanics, there were several carriages for the more convenient travelling of the ladies, the young and the aged. Altogether, the appearance of the train and the excellent conduct and pleasant associations of the emigrants with one another bespoke the moving of farmers and tradespeople in comfortable circumstances. They rested every seventh day in their journey, and engaged in religious exercises in their own way, as had been their custom at home. They appeared to be related to each other by families or by marriage, and with the toddling infant playing in the camp at night might be seen the venerable patriarch of three score years and ten. All seemed happy together. Such was the emigrant train that passed through Utah in 1857 and perished on the Mountain Meadows, two hundred and fifty miles south of Salt Lake City.

During the past fifteen years this Mountain Meadows massacre has been frequently charged to the Mormons, but with unyielding pertinacity they have denied the implication, and with the boldness of their assertions they have managed to induce even astute Congressmen to believe that the massacre was the work of the Indians. But, singularly enough, on the fifteenth anniversary of that foul and treacherous deed, in which one hundred and twenty men, women and children were murdered, there comes to us from the city of the Prophet Brigham the full and frank confession of one of his own bishops that the bloody work was ordered by the Mormon leaders and executed by their militia.

Philip Klingdon Smith makes oath before the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial district of the State of Nevada that the massacre of the large body of Arkansas emigrants on their way to California was perpetrated by the Mormon militia, and by order of the Mormon authorities at "head-quarters." We need not recite the horrifying story as related in Smith's affidavit, for that can be seen by our readers. Smith was a bishop in the Mormon Church, and was a member of the force sent by the Mormon authorities to massacre the Arkansas emigrants. There seems to be no reason to doubt the statement he makes under oath, and he was certainly in a position to know the facts. We would willingly believe if we could that no people claiming to be civilized could be guilty of such a horror and base treachery as he describes; but the details are so circumstantial, and the crime was so much in accordance with the fanaticism and revenge of the Mormons generally at that period that the statement cannot be doubted. The motives given for this dreadful butchery are many. One is that it was conceived and carried out in revenge for the injuries sustained by the Mormons in Missouri and Illinois; another is that it was to revenge the killing of a Mormon some time previously in Arkansas by the husband of a woman whom the Mormon had carried off. Of course there would be no justification either of the crime of the Mormon in taking another man's wife or for the husband in taking the life of the wife stealer; but that the Mormons wrought their vengeance on a body of innocent emigrants because they happened to be from the same State as the murderer makes a shallow excuse which the most confessedly brutalized wretches in the world could not expect to palm off as the true cause. It was, undoubtedly, the desire of the Mormon leaders in carrying out the atrocity to strike such a deadly fear into emigrants that the route across the Territory would be looked on as a grave. They wanted no knowledge of the Territory to go abroad, and they wanted no settlements within it, save such as filtered through the Mormon Church. This is nakedly what the order to exterminate the Arkansas emigrants meant, no matter what other pretences may have been cunningly circulated to account for it, even among the ignorant Mormons, who would do for revenge what they might fear to do in furtherance of such a bloody policy. What makes it more horrifying is that after these brave emigrants had fought successfully against their assassins, the Mormon militia, for four days, they were treacherously entrapped by a flag of truce and induced to lay down their arms under a promise of security, and then mercilessly butchered. None but the small children were spared, and those only, perhaps, because the lecherous and brutal Mormons thought they could appropriate persons of such tender years to their own use. There is nothing in the history of civilized countries more fearfully atrocious than this massacre, and no act of treachery more dastardly than that by which the emigrants were induced to lay down their arms.

It is an awful confession, and one that will awaken the whole United States to demand that this dark page in our history be illuminated by a full investigation and the prompt punishment of the guilty wretches who slow innocent and unoffending men, women and children. It was with this confession before them that a few honorable citizens of Utah asked Congress, during its last session, to so provide for the holding of courts that the murders in Utah could be properly investigated and the guilty brought to punishment. Brigham Young, who knew what was hanging over his head, sent a delegation of two Mormon Gentiles and their wives, together with his favorite Apostle Cannon, to lobby and corrupt where they could to prevent legislation. And while that was natural enough for Brigham Young to do it was currently reported that his financial agent at the seat of government had permanently secured in the judiciary committees of both the Senate and the House all the influence necessary to frustrate every measure that promised the dreaded investigation.

With such a record now sworn to by an eyewitness and a participator in the foul deed it will be interesting to watch the action of the government. Even at this late day it should promptly investigate the whole matter and bring the guilty wretches to condign punishment. A people who could commit such a crime, and a community that would tolerate and cover it up, are unfit to be recognized

as civilized. Fortunately, the frightful ulcer of Mormonism in Utah is in process of being eradicated, and the sooner it is completely removed the better.

The Protection of Emigrants.

The investigation held by the Commissioners of Emigration into the alleged ill treatment suffered by passengers on board the Charles H. Marshall has resulted in establishing the charges made against the crew. Unfortunately the state of the law places it out of the power of the officials to visit the guilty parties with the punishment they so richly deserve. It appears monstrous that any body of men should be able with impunity to exercise such brutality and tyranny as the wretched Polish Jews were made to suffer at the hands of inhuman sailors, without being amenable to justice. Had the same assaults been committed on land the perpetrators would quickly have been consigned to the Penitentiary; but on account of the unsettled and unsatisfactory state of international law such outrages can be committed without fear of punishment. The story of the passengers of the Charles H. Marshall will not fail to arouse public attention to the importance of affording greater protection to immigrants to our shores. Sad as the history is as a record of "man's inhumanity to man," it presents a by no means exceptional picture of the suffering and indignities inflicted by brutal sailors on those seeking refuge in the New World. Flying from misery, wretchedness and oppression in Europe, the extreme poor, who are compelled to trust to escape to the sailing vessel, are exposed to the brutal violence of the lowest class of seamen, who, for the most part, take refuge in the packet service. With such characters the maintenance of discipline is well nigh impossible, even when the officers are themselves of good character—a condition that does not exist in all cases. In the opinion of some of our leading merchants the cause of the impossibility of finding a good class of men for this service is due to the destruction of the American shipping interests and the closing of a professional career to men of intelligence and conduct. Although such scenes as have been enacted on board the Charles H. Marshall are not unknown on foreign vessels, it is much to be regretted that such outrages are most frequent under the American flag. The cause is, no doubt, traceable to the peculiar circumstances in which our shippers are placed with regard to the selection of crews. Men of all nations crowd our ports, and from this motley crowd the crews have to be gathered. But though this circumstance no doubt exercises an important influence on the character of American crews, we must not hastily conclude that it offers sufficient explanation of the tyranny and disregard of their rights to which unfortunate passengers are exposed on sailing packets. It would, perhaps, be nearer the truth if we left the blame on the want of stringent laws for the protection of emigrants while on the high seas.

The letter of Commissioner Osborn to Mr. Casserly, the Superintendent at Castle Garden, in reference to the complaint of an immigrant of ill-treatment while at sea, accounts for the brutal violence of sailors on shipboard. From this letter we learn that the emigrant who leaves a foreign port under the American flag has absolutely no protection against personal outrage until he touches land. He may be kicked until he is at the point of death, or "roped," or hung over the ship's side head down, with the prospect of a sudden plunge into the waves, for the amusement of a brutal crew; but the law takes no notice of such assaults unless they are made with intent to commit a felony. The ruffians know the laxity of the law and take advantage of it whenever the discipline of the ship is not sufficiently severe to restrain their brutal instincts. With the knowledge of this fact before their minds the authorities ought to be able to adopt such measures as would effectively put an end to the disgraceful treatment emigrants are so often subjected to while at sea. Before the introduction of steamers ill-treatment of unfortunate passengers was a rule, until the subject attracted the attention of foreign governments. By the enactment and enforcement of severe laws for the protection of passengers the abuses soon disappeared. It only requires the authorities here to take the same interest in the suppression of brutality on board passenger vessels, and the enactment of such laws as will leave no loophole for escape to the guilty, to render such scenes as were enacted on the Charles H. Marshall impossible. Once make it clear to the mind of the ruffian that he will be held strictly responsible for his acts, and we shall be spared the shame of such scenes on American vessels as disgraced civilization on board the Charles H. Marshall. Ruffians must be taught that Jews, like other men, have rights that the law will enforce. But the same disregard for humanity that was exhibited toward the Jews on this occasion will on another inflict suffering and outrage on others who happen to be too weak or too cowardly to resent a wrong. It is, therefore, in the interest of the common good that safeguards should be erected to shield the helpless from the attacks of the evil-disposed. We hope Congress will act on the recommendation of the Emigration Commissioners and amend the law so as to give the fullest and most ample protection to emigrants while on their way to their new home. Humanity and expediency alike demand it. It is not creditable to our law-makers that the band of ruffians concerned in the unprovoked assaults on helpless passengers should be allowed to depart in peace to wreak their savage and causeless hate on new victims, with the confidence that they can do so with impunity. Surely this is an evil that calls loudly for redress, and we hope it will not call in vain.

LADIES IN THE COUNCIL ROOM IN GENEVA.—The Court of Arbitration for the settlement of the Alabama claims will assemble in full session in Geneva to-day. The ignominious vulgus of the people will be carefully excluded, and the council room graced by the presence of a number of ladies who have been invited to witness, with other personages, the closing scenes of the once serious international difficulty. The ladies will, no doubt, hail the triumph of the Goddess of Peace with their very sweetest smiles and unanimously vote old Mars a most disagreeable, disturbing personage.

ANOTHER DEPRIVATION.—This time the amount is \$75,000, the man's name Butler and the place Wall street.

The Great Western Storm.
The great storm which has just swept the country from west to east seems to mark the transition of the seasons. It appears that for several days it was forcing its way from the valley of the Missouri River, by detachments, in the direction of the great lakes. On Saturday night last the first manifestation of its approach was given to the inhabitants of Davenport, Iowa, in a terrific gale, in which the wind blew with great violence and reached the hurricane velocity of seventy-two miles an hour. The Signal Service reports show that this was merely the skirminish of its vanguard force and that the real body of the gale was moving from the far West. On the afternoon of the 11th the barometer had fallen in Iowa, and the centre of disturbance was crossing that State on its northward path. On Thursday it was reported over Lower Michigan, and had begun to exercise its indrawing influence on the atmosphere over the entire country east of the Mississippi. The easterly and southerly air currents from the Atlantic and Gulf, laden with the Summer evaporation of the ocean, as they came over the Atlantic seaboard, have precipitated large quantities of water, and the whole lake region and the territory of the Northwest have been refreshed and irrigated by this beneficent storm, so that we may hope this Fall will not witness the horrors of last Autumn's Chicago fire and the Northwestern forest conflagrations.

If the West Indian cyclones are behind their usual August dates this year the late Western gale, generated in the valley of the Missouri and in the vast laboratory of nature, the great Plains, will perhaps serve the function of the Southern storms for the time and bring on the decisive equinoctial change. Already the report of a vast body of cold atmosphere and northerly winds in the far Northwest indicates that the Summer southerly currents are being overmatched by the Autumnal winds from the high north.

It was long ago contended by Sir David Brewster and other eminent scientists that these grand continental tempests serve the high purpose of diluting all atmospheric poisons and degrading the noxious elements which man would otherwise have to breathe. Certainly we breathe more freely and vigorously after they have swept over us. We may hope that, after this storm, the last vestige of the fiery Summer will be removed.

The Erie Canal and the Western Trade.
The importance of the question of increased facilities of communication between the seaboard and the West is rapidly forcing itself on the minds of the commercial community. No part of the Commonwealth is more deeply interested in the solution of the problem of cheap freight than the inhabitants of New York city. Owing to the enterprise of her citizens in time past this city became the great outlet for the produce of the West; but rivals are springing up rapidly in many directions, and New York no longer affords the quickest and cheapest route for the shipment of Western produce. The principal danger to our prosperity arises from the rivalry of the St. Lawrence, which allows grain and lumber to be carried directly, without transshipment, to the sea coast, and even to Europe. Our old-fashioned communication by the Erie Canal is too slow, and our high tariff railways are too dear, to enable us to compete successfully for the carrying trade with the Canadians. As a result we see the immense grain and lumber trades, which at one time were almost wholly in our hands, passing away to strangers. All the while we exhibit an indifference which will be regretted when it is too late.

In the news columns to-day we publish a communication on the subject of converting the Erie Canal into a freight line. Whether that would be a satisfactory solution of the difficulty is not quite clear. It appears to us rather that such an expedient would not meet all the requirements of the case. There is one proposition, however, that well deserves the consideration of all who are interested in the welfare of New York. It is the establishment of a railway entirely devoted to carrying freight. The wear and tear on a road specially equipped would be very much less, and the delays and inconveniences of the present system could be almost wholly avoided. The expense of working such a line would not approximate to that incurred under the mixed freight and passenger system. Without interfering with existing means of communication, such a line would afford facilities for the carrying of produce from the interior without incurring the cost of transshipment. Travelling at a lower rate of speed, but without any of the shuntings and delays which are so vexatious at present, a great deal of valuable time would be saved. It would also be practicable to carry freight at much lower rates than are charged at present. Indeed, unless the commercial community here make some effort in this direction the whole Western trade will eventually be turned into new and cheaper channels. This is a matter that intimately interests all classes of citizens and ought to receive prompt attention. If private enterprise is not equal to undertaking the establishment of a highway it might with advantage be undertaken by the State and worked, not in the interest of a company, but for the benefit of the whole people. In a very few years it would pay the expense of construction and would then become a valuable means of revenue to the government. Belgium and Switzerland have set us the example of taking the control of the commercial highways out of the hands of private associations, and the result has been extremely beneficial to the people. Why should we not try the same experiment here?

Mexican Border Outrages.
Lerdo's accession to the Mexican Presidency has not brought the millennium; at least it comes short of that along the Bravo. Our Commissioners went lately from Brownsville up the river boundary to Rio Grande City to take testimony in regard to the allegations of the theft of cattle from our citizens by Mexican marauders. They found proof in plenty. Besides the testimony of the plundered planters they saw with their own eyes the commission of the crime and the outrageous insult to our sovereignty as a friendly neighbor. They saw herds of stolen cattle crossing the river, driven by greedy thieves, while large quantities of the hides from stolen cattle were discovered at the Mexican town of Camargo. Murders are common along the border, and the Mexicans do not pretend to conceal their threats against all who testify before the Com-